The main reason for the loss in 1988-89 was due to poor performance of the Westland helicopters.

(b) and (c) The Westland W-30 helicopters were found unsuitable on account of operational safety and economic viability. All these 19 helicopters are grounded since 9th February, 1991.

Development of Buddhist Centre In Orissa

3339. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flow of tourists will increase in Orissa if the places of the Buddhist importance in that State are properly developed; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far or proposed to be taken in that direction in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments on specific proposals based on their merit, availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities. So far, the Department of Tourism have sanctioned the construction of a tourist complex at Pathrajpur and proposal for providing tourist amenities at Buddhist complex at Ratnagiri is under consideration.

Development of adventure tourism

3340. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have identified certain spots for adventure tourism in the country;

(b) if so, what are their locations and development plan drawn in respect of each spots;

(c) whether the Central Government have decided to provide grants to the concerned States; for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Government of India on its own does not identify spots for the development of Adventure Tourism. However, it assists the State Governments for creation of infrastructural facilities on the specific proposals received on the basis of their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Negligence in Air-India flight

3341. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN
SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the newspaper reports about Air-India flight-III Delhi-London-New York left from Indira Gandhi International Airport on 2nd March, 1992 without the passenger but with its baggage;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken action against the guilty; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The official responsible has been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings instituted against him.

Extension of international flights from their destination to other metropolitan cities

3342. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the international flights of Air-India from their destination to other metropolitan cities to meet the requirements of domestic passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Air-India constantly reviews the traffic profile in the country & plans international services out of India on the basis of traffic potential, commercial viability & availability of capacity. Presently, there is no proposal to start direct international flights from any new locations in the country.

I.T.D.C. functioning without any Board

3343. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ITDC is functioning without any Board;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the strength of the Board as per the Company Law under which the ITDC is registered as compared to the number as on date; and

(d) what are the qualifications of the present Directors for ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Articles of Association of ITDC, the number of Directors of the Company shall not be less than two and more than fifteen. At present there are only two official Directors on the Board.

Resignation of Deputy Managing Director of Air-India

3344. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Managing Director of Air-India has resigned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been sharp differences between the present Chairman and Deputy Managing Director in respect of Marketing Plan of Air-India and on the score of privatisation of Air-India; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The present Deputy Managing Director, Air-India has submitted his request for voluntary retirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Committee for the welfare of the minorities

3345. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any committee in his Ministry for monitoring implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the details with regard to such Committee in his Ministry and the number of persons who have been provided with employment during the past three years under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. A Joint Secretary in the Department of Civil Aviation has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for monitoring implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities.

(b) During the last three years a total of 791 persons belonging to minority communities have been provided employment in the organisations under the Department of Civil Aviation.